

**OCELOT**  
**(*Felis pardalis*)**

**STATUS:** Endangered (37 FR 6176; March 30, 1972; 47 FR 31670; July 21, 1982) without critical habitat.

**SPECIES DESCRIPTION:** Small, 76-104 cm (30-41 in), 6.8-19 kg (15-40 lb), spotted cat. Females are smaller than males. The upper surface (back) is grayish to cinnamon and paler on the sides; underparts and inside limbs are whitish; and dark markings form streaks that run obliquely down the sides, with two black stripes on each cheek. Young ocelots are darker than adults. The ocelot's tail is about half the length of its head and body. Nocturnal.

**HABITAT:** Desert scrub communities in Arizona; dense, almost impenetrable thickets in Texas; and humid tropical forests, coastal mangroves, and swampy savannahs in areas south of the U.S. Prey includes rabbits, small rodents, and birds. Universal component is presence of dense cover.

**RANGE: Historic:** Ranged over much of Texas, southeastern Arizona, the west and east coasts of Mexico, and Central and South America, with individuals found as far south as northern Argentina.

**Current:** Individuals are still found in southern Texas, Mexico, and South and Central America in suitable habitat. Several unconfirmed sighting of ocelots have been made in Arizona in recent years. Sightings in Maricopa County are probably of escaped or released captive animals.

**REASONS FOR DECLINE/VULNERABILITY:** Endangered due to habitat alteration and loss (primarily due to brush clearing), and predator control activities.

**NOTES:** A Listed Cats of Texas and Arizona Recovery Plan, which includes the ocelot, was completed in August 1990. A copy of the recovery plan is available online at:

<http://arizonaes.fws.gov/Documents/RecoveryPlans/ListedCatsOfTxAndAzRecoveryPlan.pdf>

Listed as a Species of Special Concern by the State of Arizona.